MODEL
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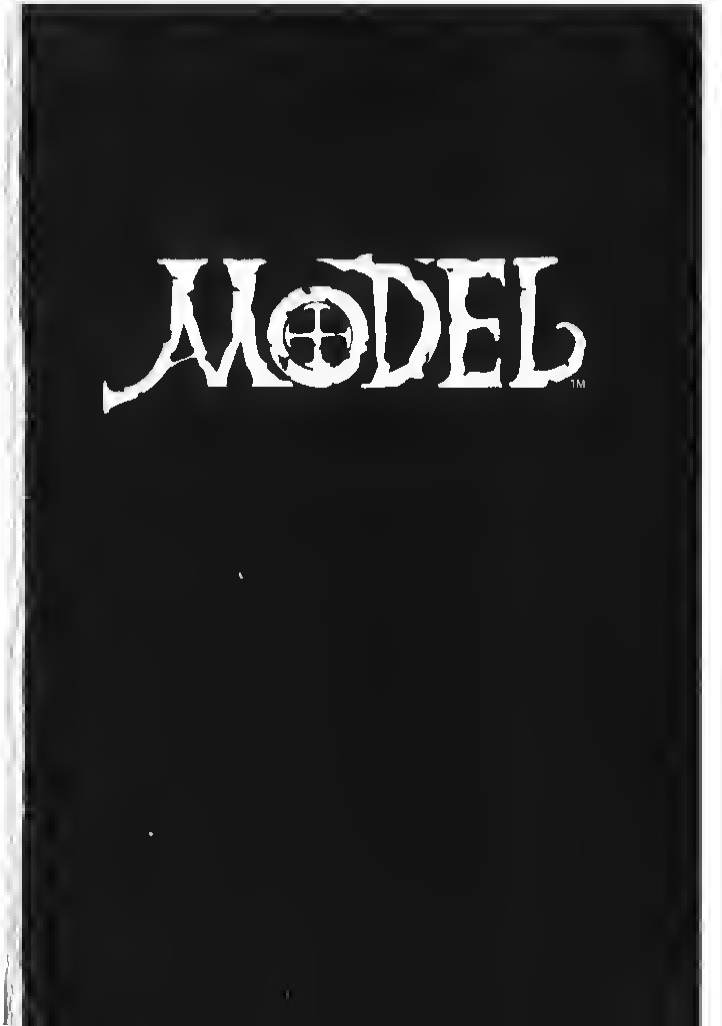
LEE SO-YOUNG


MODEL

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A TOKYOPOP Manga

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*Model Vol. 1*

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ISBN: 1-591B2-711-6

First TOKYOPOP printing: May 2004

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the USA

# MODEL™

## VOLUME ONE

## BY

## LEE SO-YOUNG

TOKYOPOP

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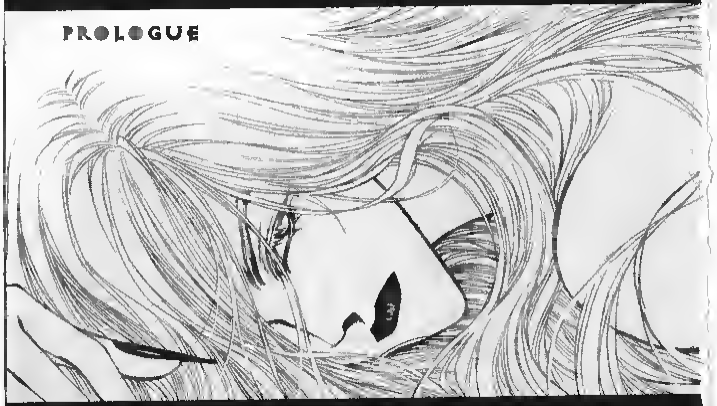
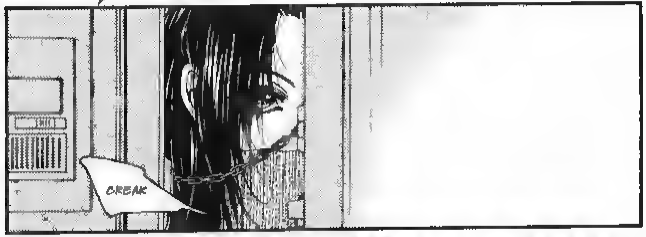
# MODEL: ONE

PROLOGUE.....8

CHAPTER ONE
ALTAR OF BLOOD.....70


PROLOGUE

쾅
JAE! OPEN UP! JAE!
쾅
IT'S MELISSA! C'MON, OPEN THE DOOR!


CREAK

WHAT THE...?
DON'T JUST STAND THERE! HELP ME!
I'M EXHAUSTED FROM DRAGGING HIM!

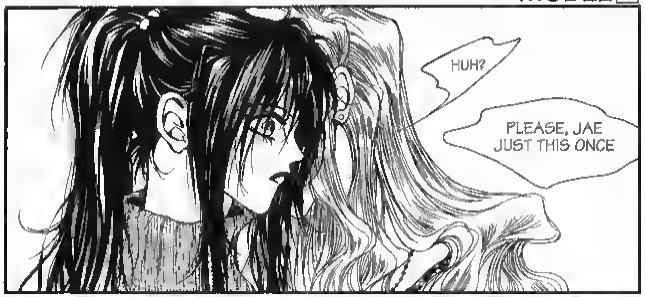
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW HEAVY HE IS FOR SUCH A THIN GUY.
I ALMOST DIED DRAGGING HIM ALL THE WAY HERE!
CRUNK

NO.
NO.

NO!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!!






HUH?
PLEASE, JAE JUST THIS ONCE

I HAVE TO MEET LOUIS TONIGHT, HE'S PROBABLY WAITING FOR ME AT MY APARTMENT
NOW WHAT WOULD HE SAY IF I SHOWED UP WITH THIS GUY?
I SWEAR! I DIDN'T KNOW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. I WAS JUST FLIRTING WITH THE GUY, AND THEN--
A COUPLE OF DRINKS LATER, HE PASSED OUT. I COULDN'T LEAVE HIM AT THE BAR LIKE THIS, COULD I?

BESIDES, HE'S OUT COLD.
HE'LL BE DEAD TO THE WORLD 'TIL MORNING.

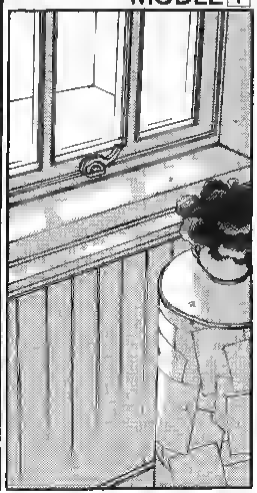
EVEN IF HE DID WAKE UP, HE'S A TOTAL WIMP. HE WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU!
GRRR...

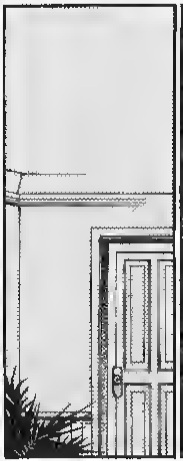
HOW CAN YOU LEAVE ME ALONE WITH A COMPLETE STRANGER?!
I LOVE ♡ YOU!

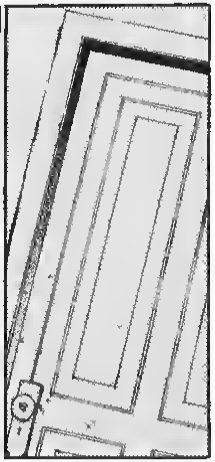
SLAM
SHE'S SO ANNOYING

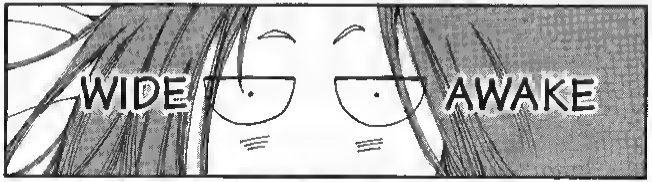
GREAT. THIS IS JUST GREAT
UGH

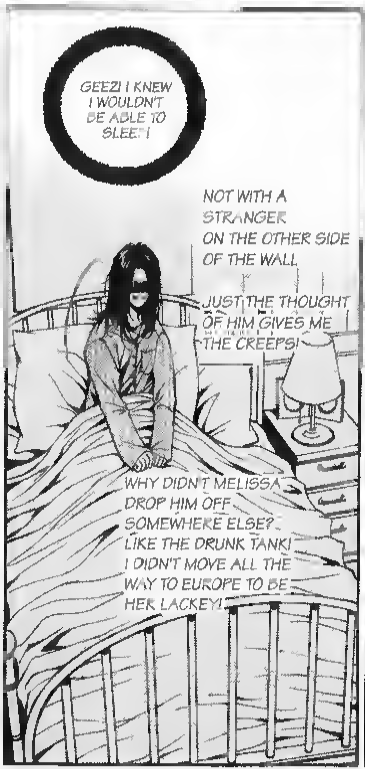
A COMPLETE STRANGER SLEEPING ON MY COUCH
HE BETTER NOT WAKE UP 'TIL MORNING.
GOD!
I HOPE HE ISN'T SOME STALKER OR A PSYCHO!

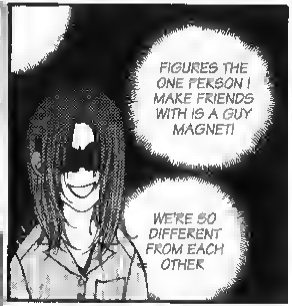







WIDE
AWAKE


GEEZ! I KNEW I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP!
NOT WITH A STRANGER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL
JUST THE THOUGHT OF HIM GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
WHY DIDN'T MELISSA DROP HIM OFF SOMEWHERE ELSE? LIKE THE DRUNK TANK! I DIDN'T MOVE ALL THE WAY TO EUROPE TO BE HER LACKEY!


FIGURES THE ONE PERSON I MAKE FRIENDS WITH IS A GUY MAGNET!
WE'RE SO DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER

HMM, MY GUESS IS SHE WANTS TO KEEP HIM.

WHY ELSE WOULD SHE GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF DRAGGING HIS SKINNY BUTT ALL THE...WAY...

AHHH!
I MUST BE DREAMING
BUT OF ALL THE DREAMS I COULD BE HAVING, WHY THIS ONE?!!
NOOOO! THIS IS WAY TOO..

WEEEEIIIRD?

AH.. HAHA! I GUESS I WAS DREAMING
THEY SAY THAT YOUR DREAMS ARE REALLY YOUR FANTASIES...
BLUSH
WHAT AM I SAYING?!

THIS IS ALL MELISSA'S FAULT! I NEED A DRINK OF WATER
GRUNCH
I'M TOO INNOCENT TO BE ACTING LIKE THIS THE WORD 'LUST' ISN'T EVEN IN MY VOCABULARY!

HUH? WHAT DID I JUST STEP--?
THU THUMP
THU THUMP
THU THUMP
!

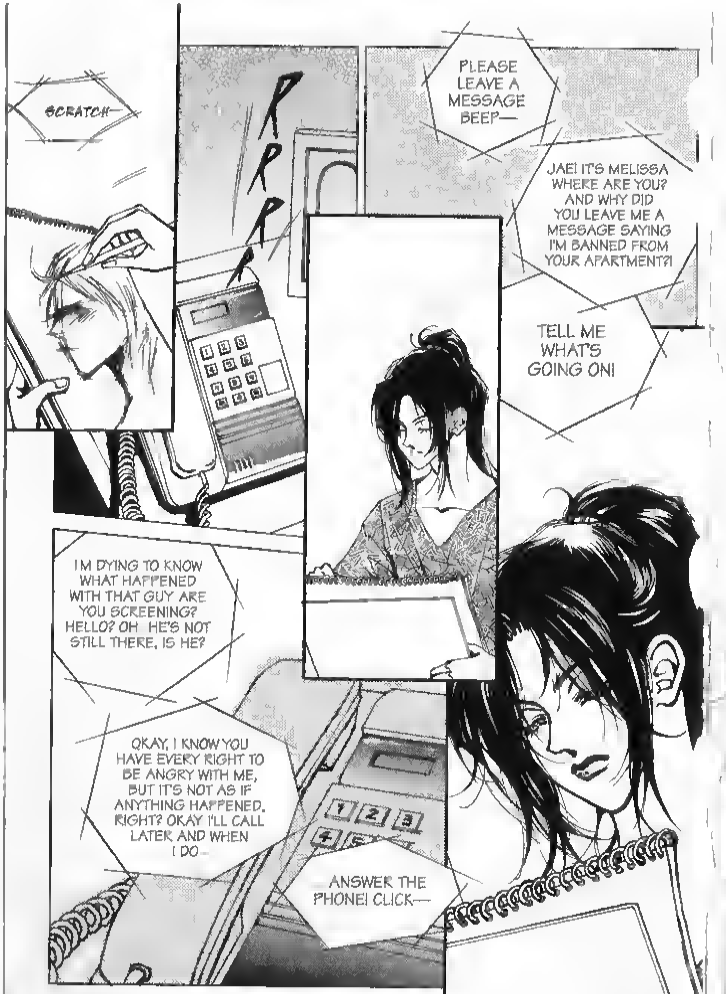
CRAAASH
T-TOK
.....
MUH...
MUH MELISSA
WHO IS THIS FREAK?!

...!
DON'T BE AFRAID.
I WON'T HURT YOU.
I JUST NEED A LITTLE...BLOOD.

OH...
...GOD!
SCRAATCH
SCRATCH SCRATCH—
SCRAAAATCH—

SCRAAAATCH
SCRAATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
BLINK
THANK GOD!

THIS IS GREAT!
CAN THIS GUY REALLY BE A VAMPIRE?
FOUR YEARS OF LIVING IN A COUNTRY
FOUR YEARS OF BOREDOM AND NOW THIS
THE TRUE BLOOD OF AN ARTIST--HOW EXTRAORDINARY
WE ARE BOTH HUNTERS HE SEEKS BLOOD, WHILE I SEEK BEAUTY
AND SINCE I PROVIDED HIM WITH FOOD, HE WILL PROVIDE ME WITH A SUBJECT.
QUID PRO QUO FOR MY BLOOD, AFTER ALL, THIS STUFF ISN'T FREE.
HMM.. YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT I ONLY UNDRESSED YOUR UPPER BODY


SCRATCH
RRRR
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE BEEP—
JAE! IT'S MELISSA WHERE ARE YOU? AND WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME A MESSAGE SAYING I'M BANNED FROM YOUR APARTMENT?!
TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!
I'M DYING TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WITH THAT GUY ARE YOU SCREENING? HELLO? OH HE'S NOT STILL THERE, IS HE?
OKAY, I KNOW YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY WITH ME, BUT IT'S NOT AS IF ANYTHING HAPPENED, RIGHT? OKAY I'LL CALL LATER AND WHEN I DO—
ANSWER THE PHONE! CLICK—

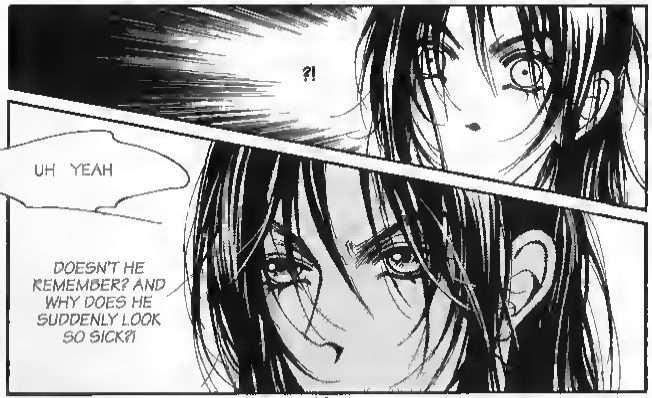
...ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT...

UH, HI! YOU'RE UP...
I WAS SO FOCUSED, I DIDN'T... UH... WANNA SEE?
파라
파라
파라
HMM...
WHAT IS THIS?
SOME KIND OF JOKE?!

HOW DARE A MERE MORTAL..
...TOUCH MY BODY!
DO YOU SEEK DEATH?
...UH...
...YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DRINK ALL MY BLOOD NOW, ARE YOU?
I JUST FIGURED YOU OWED ME. YOU DRANK MY BLOOD--I USED YOU AS MY MODEL
BUT NOW THAT WE'RE EVEN, MAYBE YOU SHOULD LEAVE

I MAY NOT HAVE MADE A BIG SPLASH IN THIS WORLD, BUT I'M NOT READY TO LEAVE IT!
ESPECIALLY SINCE MY CAREER HASN'T TAKEN OFF YET!

I...
...I DRANK YOUR BLOOD?


?!
UH YEAH
DOESN'T HE REMEMBER? AND WHY DOES HE SUDDENLY LOOK SO SICK?!

MWAA
MMWAA...
!

HE

THREW UP.

HMM...
MY SKIN IS STILL YOUTHFUL, SO YOUR BLOOD ISN'T TAINTED.
IF YOU'RE REALLY A VAMPIRE, HOW CAN YOU SEE YOURSELF IN A MIRROR?

LEGENDS AREN'T THE SAME AS FACTS. EACH VAMPIRE IS UNIQUE JUST LIKE MORTALS.
WE HAVE DISTINCT PREFERENCES IN BLOOD
A DELICATE VAMPIRE, LIKE ME, MUST ONLY DRINK THE BLOOD OF THE PURE AND INNOCENT
LAST NIGHT I WAS DRUNK. I WASN'T AS DISCERNING.
IT'S THAT BLOND'S FAULT. SHE KEPT FEEDING ME DRINKS FAR PAST THE POINT I SHOULD HAVE STOPPED
UNLESS IT'S A CHILD'S BLOOD I HAVE TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES
IF I EVER CATCH HER AGAIN, I'LL...
MELISSA

YOU ARE SOMEWHAT FEARLESS FOR A MORTAL, BUT YOUR ART...
IF YOU DREAM OF BECOMING TRUE ARTIST...
GIVE UP!
THESE SKETCHES SHOW NO MERIT.

I'VE ENCOUNTERED MANY MORTALS LIKE YOU THROUGH THE EONS.
ARTISTIC HACKS WHO SWING A BRUSH WITH THE FINESSE OF A GARDEN HOE.
YES, THE PASSION IS THERE. BUT THERE IS NO INSPIRATION!
THEY'D HAVE MORE SUCCESS COMMITTING SUICIDE IF YOU CHOOSE THAT ROUTE, PLEASE AVOID SLITTING YOUR WRISTS.
IT WOULD BE A PITY TO HAVE ALL THAT PRECIOUS BLOOD SPILL ON THE FLOOR.
THIS WORLD IS OVERFLOWING WITH MORTALS WHO DON'T REALIZE THEIR LACK OF TALENT.
I GUESS IT'S JUST AS WELL. MORE BLOOD FOR ME TO SAVOR!

TO BE HONEST, I PREFER BLOOD LIKE YOURS
DESPITE YOUR LACK OF TALENT, I ENJOY THE BLOOD OF ARTISTS
IT'S SCRUMPTIOUS.
BUT THE PURE BLOOD OF AN INNOCENT MIXED WITH A LITTLE ARTISTIC INSANITY. ABSOLUTELY INTOXICATING.

INSANITY?
LOOK, IF YOU'RE TRYING TO SWEET TALK ME INTO DONATING MORE BLOOD, FORGET IT
ADMIT IT! YOU'RE HUNGRY, AREN'T YOU?

I DIDN'T CROSS THE OCEAN JUST TO BECOME YOUR HAPPY MEAL.

I'D HAVE THOUGHT THAT A VAMPIRE WOULD BE MORE ENLIGHTENED
THERE'S MORE TO ART THAN TALENT. THERE'S PASSION!
AND TRUE PASSION OFTEN TRANSCENDS MERE TALENT!
I MAY APPEAR TALENTLESS IN YOUR EYES, BUT IT'S JUST SAD.
...SAD THAT YOU CAN'T SEE THE PASSION IN MY HEART!
BUT WHAT WOULD A WALKING CORPSE KNOW OF PASSION?
YOUR SHRIVELED VEINS ONLY HOLD COLD DEATH. YOUR HEART ONLY CONTAINS THIRST
HMMM...YOU'RE QUITE FEARLESS...
...FOR A MORTAL.
VERY WELL! LET US BARGAIN. YOU CAN SHOW ME THIS PASSION. BUT...
...IN RETURN, SINCE I CANNOT ENDURE HUNGER, YOU WILL LET ME DRINK YOUR BLOOD
WITHOUT SURPASSING THE DANGER POINT, OF COURSE

A VAMPIRE WITH A BEAUTY NEVER BEFORE CAPTURED ON CANVAS.
THAT SOUNDS FAIR. LET US BEGIN FOR YOUR INSULTS, I'LL TAKE MY FIRST PAYMENT.
MY LITTLE ARTIST. I WILL LET YOU DRAW WHAT NO MORTAL HAS EVER DRAWN BEFORE.
HIS LIPS ARE CHILLINGLY COLD..

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
WHY IS IT BOILING IN HERE? DO YOU HAVE THE HEATER ON? IN THE SUMMER?
WHAT'S GOING ON, JAE? ARE YOU AVOIDING ME?
I HAVE A COLD. I'M TRYING TO SWEAT IT OUT BEFORE IT GETS WORSE. THAT'S WHAT WE DO IN KOREA.
REALLY?
AND I HAVEN'T BEEN AVOIDING YOU. I'VE JUST...
I'VE STARTED DRAWING AGAIN.

CONGRATULATIONS, JAE! I'M GLAD YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN UP!
THAT'S GREAT!
WHEN DID I EVER SAY I WAS GIVING UP?
I WAS REALLY MOVED AFTER YOU GRADUATED AND DECIDED TO STAY HERE TO STUDY.
BUT LATELY YOU HAVEN'T REALLY DONE ANYTHING.
I GUESS YOU WERE LACKING INSPIRATION.
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DRAW NOW?
CAN I SEE IT WHEN IT'S FINISHED?

OH, LISTEN TO ME RAMBLING! I SHOULDN'T FESTER YOU
BUT YOU HAVE TO PROMISE YOU'LL SHOW ME WHATEVER YOU DO FIRST OKAY?
UH-HUH OKAY
I'M GLAD MY COLD'S FINALLY LETTING UP
IT'S PROBABLY HIS FAULT I'M SO WEAK. HE'S DRINKING HALF MY BLOOD!
WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?
WHY...
...DID I AGREE TO SUCH A CRAZY DEAL?!
BUT IT IS A PRETTY UNIQUE SITUATION.
SHE HAS A SOFT SPOT FOR PRETTY THINGS.

IS SHE FINALLY GONE?
THAT BLOND IS NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT YOU ONLY HAVE FOUR DAYS TO COMPLETE THE DRAWING?
CLICK
I KNOW YOU WANT TO SHOW ME YOUR PASSION, BUT I'M LOSING MY PATIENCE. IT'S NOT EASY WATCHING AROUND WHEN YOUR MUSE IS SEARCHING FOR INSPIRATION
HEY-- THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM!
IF YOU KEEP PRESSURING ME, I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO A GOOD JOB.
AND I'M NOT GIVING YOU ANOTHER DROP UNTIL I FINISH. I NEED MY STRENGTH
SWISH
NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT RIDICULOUS OUTFIT YOU'RE WEARING. I WANT TO DRAW YOU IN SOMETHING ELSE.
AFTER ALL, IT'S THE ARTIST WHO DECIDES WHAT HER MODEL WILL WEAR!

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
IT'S THIS OR NOTHING.
AND REMEMBER...
...NO SOUL HAS EVER SURVIVED INCURRING MY WRATH.
I BET HE SAYS THAT JUST TO GET HIS WAY
FINE.

YOU SMOKE?
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
IT'S JUST FOR SHOW
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

BLUSH

SLAM
UH... I NEED TO WASH MY HANDS!
SPLOOSH

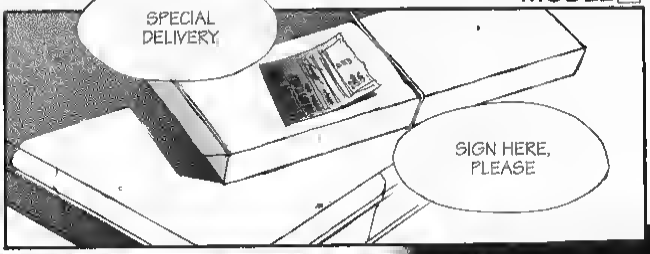
TAKE IT EASY, JAE... DON'T GET SUCKED IN!
HE'S NOT MORTAL
HE'S JUST A WILD BEAST STARVING FOR BLOOD
DON'T GET DISTRACTED BY HIS LOOKS!
NO MATTER WHAT
...I CAN'T FALTER!

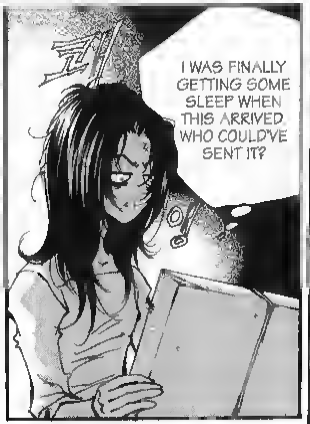
HMM, THESE MORTALS...
THEY'RE ALWAYS SO POWERLESS UNDER MY BEAUTY

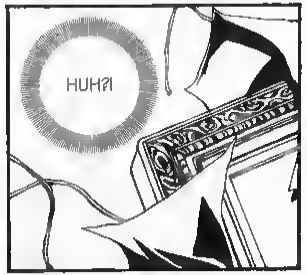
HOW TRAGIC...

.....

DING DONG
DING DONG


SPECIAL DELIVERY
SIGN HERE, PLEASE


I WAS FINALLY GETTING SOME SLEEP WHEN THIS ARRIVED. WHO COULD'VE SENT IT?


HUH?!

IT LOOKS LIKE A...
HOW CAN THIS BE?!
THAT BASTARD!
WHAT?
THE DRAWING IS FINISHED? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
IT'S TRUE!
I MUST ADMIT, I AMAZED EVEN MYSELF WITH MY GENIUS..
OUR DEAL IS DONE..
THERE'S ONLY ONE MINOR DETAIL...

YOU'RE NOT GETTING A SINGLE DROP OF MY BLOOD.
..YOU FRAUD!!
FLAP
SEE FOR YOURSELF.
THAT IS YOU, ISN'T IT?
IT'S SO REAL, IT'S ALMOST LIKE A PHOTOGRAPH.
EXCEPT YOU LIED TO ME!

OUR DEAL WAS MADE UNDER FALSE PRETENSES!
WHY? BECAUSE YOU SAID NO ONE HAD EVER DRAWN YOU BEFORE!
WHICH MEANS YOU GO THIRSTY
UNLESS THAT ISN'T YOU IN THE PICTURE?
I KNOW! MAYBE IT'S YOUR EVIL TWIN! BUT LET'S BE HONEST.
THIS IS JUST A PLOY YOU USE TO FIND WILLING VICTIMS, ISN'T IT?
AFTER ALL, IT'S LESS MESSY WHEN THEY'RE WILLING, ISN'T IT?
WHAT'S WRONG? CAN'T EXPLAIN YOURSELF?
I'M SURE YOU WERE PLANNING ON KILLING ME ANYWAY.
I'M SURE BREAKING A PROMISE MEANS NOTHING TO YOU
PORTRAIT OF A VAMPIRE...
...OR DEAL WITH A DEVIL?
YOU WERE JUST USING ME--
YOU'RE WRONG!

YOU'RE NOT ONLY TALENTLESS AND PASSIONLESS...
...YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE AN EYE FOR ART!
IF YOU HAD LOOKED MORE CLOSELY AT THE PAINTING...
YOU WOULD'VE REALIZED IT ISN'T ME
I...AM A VAMPIRE
BUT THE CREATURE IN THAT PORTRAIT IS A MORTAL.
THE MORTAL I ONCE WAS, LONG AGO.

IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY, YOU CAN SEE THE LIFE EACH STROKE HOLDS. YOU CAN FEEL THE WARMTH OF MY FLESH, THE BLOOD THAT ONCE FILLED MY HEART.
THERE ISN'T A TRACE OF THAT PERSON LEFT.
BECAUSE THAT WAS THE LAST SELF-PORTRAIT I PAINTED BEFORE I DIED.
SO YOU'RE AN ARTIST?
YES AND YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE ALLOWED TO CAPTURE MY IMAGE SINCE THIS PORTRAIT.

YOU UNDERSTAND MY NARCISSISM, DON'T YOU?
I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE MY BEAUTY.
THAT ETERNAL FEAR OF ALL MORTALS.
THAT'S WHY I CHOSE TO BECOME A VAMPIRE.
BUT THE COST OF MAINTAINING MY BEAUTY IS AN UNQUENCHABLE THIRST FOR BLOOD.
ONLY BY STEALING THE YOUTH OF OTHERS.

...DO I MAINTAIN MY OWN.
IT IS A THIRST THAT IS NEVER SATISFIED.
A THIRST...
...THAT I CAN NEVER SLAKE IN MY QUEST FOR BEAUTY.
DON'T MOVE.
THESE NAILS ARE QUITE SHARP, MY DEAR.

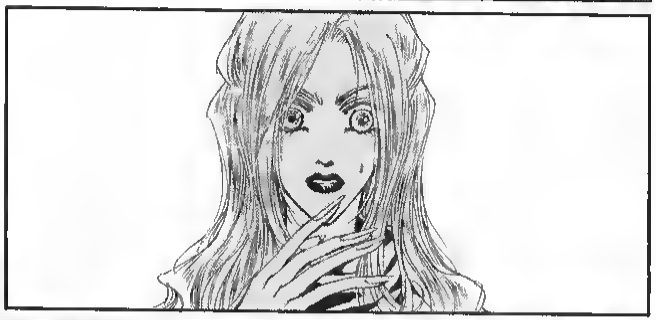
BESIDES, IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU.
I SAW YOUR EYES..
...FALTER!

.....
THIS IS HOW IT WILL END
...JUST LIKE YOU SAID

BESIDES, A DEAL WITH A VAMPIRE IS LIKE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL
OR MAYBE, I'M MORE LIKE A CAT THAT ENJOYS PLAYING WITH ITS FOOD.
MY BODY WAS THE BAIT.
...AND YOU WERE MY PREY!

THIS BEAUTY THAT LURED YOU...
...THAT IS ETERNAL
IT'S MY FAULT
I KNEW THIS COULD HAPPEN
AS SOON AS I SAW HIM...I KNEW!
BECAUSE HE SAW IT

IN MY EYES



JAE! WAKE UP!
WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR, JAE?

.....
I'M TIRED, MELISSA
I'VE BEEN STRUGGLING WITH RENT AND I DON'T WANT TO ASK MY PARENTS FOR MONEY
SO I'M MOVING AWAY FOR AWHILE
DON'T LOOK SO DISAPPOINTED IT'S NOT LIKE I M LEAVING FOREVER.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOT INTO HIM BUT.

. HE LEFT ME WITH ENOUGH BLOOD TO SURVIVE.
I DON'T KNOW WHY HE DIDN'T KILL ME
I PROMISE I LL VISIT I WON'T BE THAT FAR AWAY
YOU HAVE TO CALL ME AS SOON AS YOU GET THERE.
BUT THIS.
OKAY..
. THIS IS EVEN WEIRDER

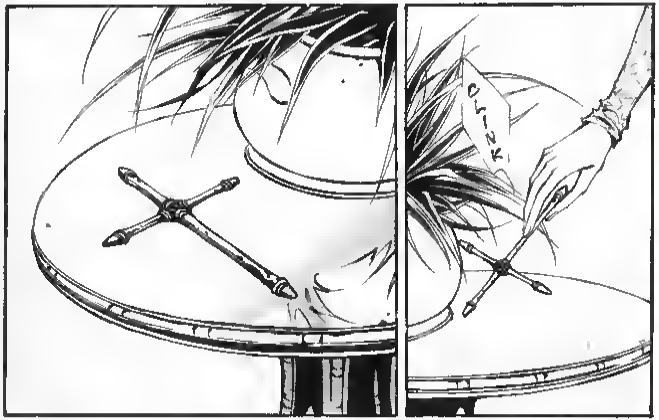
I NEVER IMAGINED I WOULD END UP HERE.
I SENSE MYSELF BEING...
WELCOME.
...DRAWN
THANKS FOR PUTTING ME UP FOR A WHILE.
A FEW DAYS AFTER... HE LEFT ME LYING ON THE FLOOR...
HE RETURNED WITH A NEW PROPOSAL.
ONE THAT WOULD WORK BETWEEN A VAMPIRE AND A MORTAL.
HE ASKED ME TO COMPLETE HIS PORTRAIT.
ONLY IT HAD TO BE DONE AT HIS HOME.
SOMEHOW... I COULDN'T REFUSE.

I SHOULD BE AFRAID
TERRIFIED
BUT I DON'T FEEL FEAR.
ONLY A SENSE OF BEING DRAWN IN... THOUGH TO WHAT, I'M NOT SURE.
AS THE GATE SLAMS SHUT, I REALIZE I CAN'T TURN BACK.
I AM THE TENANT OF A VAMPIRE.
AM I A HOSTAGE?
NAH! I'M PROBABLY JUST SATISFYING HIS HUGE, NARCISSISTIC EGO!

END OF PROLOGUE

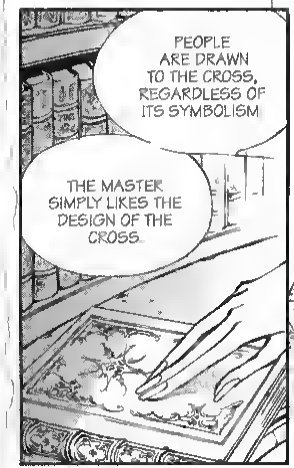
COMMON SENSE...
I THINK I LEFT IT IN MY OLD APARTMENT.
COMMON SENSE DOESN'T SEEM TO EXIST HERE.
NOT IN THIS PLACE

# CHAPTER ONE
# ALTAR OF BLOOD


CLINK

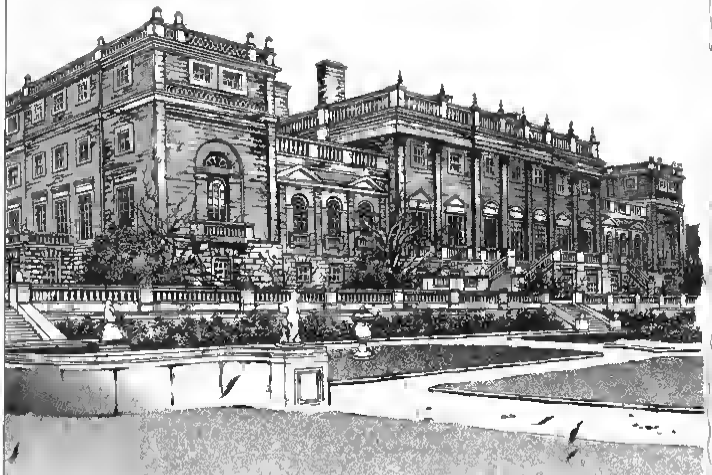
A CROSS
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT?
A VAMPIRE WITH A CROSS!

IS MICHAEL A MASOCHISTIC VAMPIRE? DOES HE GET OFF ON THE POSSIBILITY OF PAIN?
HA! I'M THINKING TOO MUCH. THIS ISN'T THE REAL WORLD I LIVE IN ANYMORE
THE MASTER DOES FEAR THE CROSS
BUT A STICK THAT LOOKS LIKE A CROSS...
ISN'T THE SAME AS ONE THAT'S BEEN BLESSED BY THE CHURCH
REMEMBER NOT ALL THE WATERS IN THE WORLD ARE DRINKABLE
SOME ARE HEALTHY SOME ARE POISON


PEOPLE ARE DRAWN TO THE CROSS, REGARDLESS OF ITS SYMBOLISM
THE MASTER SIMPLY LIKES THE DESIGN OF THE CROSS.

SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT HE ONLY FEARS THE CROSS OF A CHURCH?

HMM...
I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE
AFTER ALL, THE IDEA THAT VAMPIRES EVEN EXIST IN THE WORLD...
DEFIES ALL COMMON SENSE...



IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE I ARRIVED

WHAT A STRANGE WEEK IT'S BEEN

VAMPIRES AND MORTALS--- "NATURAL" ENEMIES. ONLY NOW WE LIVE TOGETHER

AT LEAST UNTIL I FINISH HIS PORTRAIT

THAT WAS THE PLAN



I CAN'T DRAW WHAT I CAN'T SEE!

HE HASN'T SHOWN HIMSELF ALL WEEK WHENEVER I ASK EVA WHERE HE IS SHE GIVES ME THE SAME ANSWER -

I AM MERELY HIS HOUSEKEEPER. I AM IN THE DARK REGARDING HIS PERSONAL MATTERS

PERSONAL MATTERS? IS THAT WHAT SHE CALLS HIS EXPLOITS?!

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DRAW SUCH AN ELUSIVE SUBJECT?

I WANT TO GET THIS OVER WITH. THIS PLACE IS GETTING TOO...

...SURREAL!

LOOK OUT!

WHAT?
LOOK OUT! DUCK!
SMACK
AHH?!

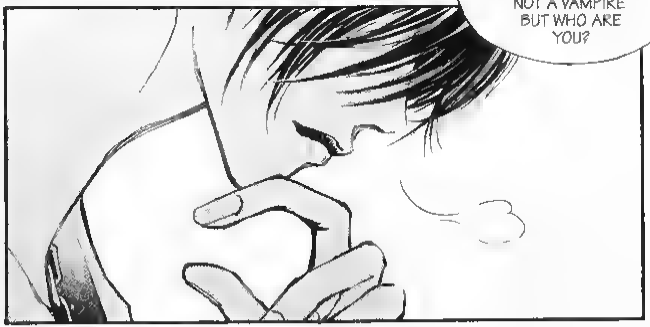
SCREECH
SCREECH
SCREECH
SCREECH

HOW PATHETIC
A GIRL WHO FEARLESSLY FOLLOWS A VAMPIRE TO HIS LAIR...
...FREAKS OUT OVER A LITTLE BAT?

SINCE I HEARD YOU'LL BE WITH US AWHILE, I THOUGHT IT BEST TO INTRODUCE YOU TWO
SO I WOKE HIM UP AND DRAGGED HIM HERE JUST FOR THIS HUMILIATION.
EEK!
NOW HIS FEELINGS ARE HURT
YIKES, IT'S SO GROSS!

UM... ALL RIGHT, IT'S NICE TO, UM, MEET YOU... MR. BAT.
BUT I THINK IT'S YOU WHO IS BEING REMISS

INSTEAD OF THE BAT, SHOULDN'T YOU BE INTRODUCING YOURSELF?


SINCE YOU'RE OUT IN DAYLIGHT, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT A VAMPIRE BUT WHO ARE YOU?

HA HA! WHAT A PITY. I'M VERY DISAPPOINTED

I'VE SHOWN MYSELF TO YOU EVERY DAY THIS WEEK

I GUESS I WASN'T AS IMPRESSIVE AS I THOUGHT

WHO...

...AM I?!

WAIT. I THINK I REMEMBER...

IT WAS THE DAY I ARRIVED..

THIS IS YOUR ROOM

I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND IT QUITE COMFORTABLE, MISS JAE.

UM... DID SOMETHING JUST GO PAST US?

PLEASE IGNORE IT.

EVA!

EVA!

COME HERE!

THERE'S SOMETHING MAKING STRANGE NOISES UNDER MY BED!
.....
IGNORE IT
IGNORE IT?! HOW CAN SHE BE SO DISMISSIVE?!
CLICK

WHO .. WHO ARE YOU?!
SHOOK
SHOOK

IT HAPPENED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. EACH TIME EVA SAID THE SAME THING.
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
PLEASE, IGNORE IT

SO
WAS THAT WIND
REALLY YOU?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW CUTE HE IS!
I GUESS I'M DIFFICULT TO SEE WITH MORTAL EYES
...WHEN I MOVE AT THAT SPEED
STILL, I FEEL DEJECTED. ALL THAT EFFORT AND YOU DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE ME
HMM, I'LL HAVE TO TRY ANOTHER WAY
...TO INTRODUCE MYSELF TO YOU.

HELLO
MY NAME
IS KEN
WILL YOU
REMEMBER ME
NOW?
OR IS YOUR
MEMORY TOO CLOUDED
BY MICHAEL?

YOU HAVE SUCH SOFT LIPS...
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WRONG WITH THEM...
I CAN TELL THAT YOU'VE BEEN...
...KISSED
...BY A VAMPIRE.

THWAK!
EVA WAS RIGHT!
I SHOULD HAVE IGNORED YOU.
HA HA!
MICHAEL MUST HAVE LOST HIS MIND—
TO BE INTERESTED IN A GIRL LIKE YOU!

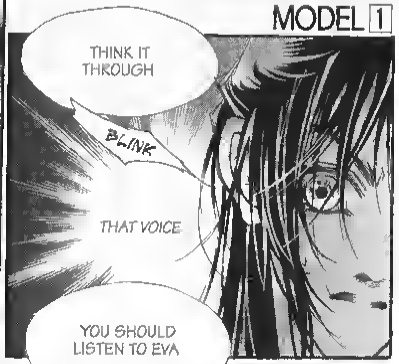
BUT MY, WHAT A PECULIAR MEAL HE'S CHOSEN
HOW NAUSEATING!
WHAT? ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YES, THE MASTER HAS RETURNED

WHERE COULD HE BE?

HIDING? WHY WOULD HE HIDE FROM ME?
HE COULD BE ANYWHERE ON THIS ESTATE IT'S HUGE! HE MUST BE INCREDIBLY WEALTHY

BUT WHY DID EVA TELL ME NOT TO LOOK FOR HIM?
SHE KNOWS I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A FULL WEEK

I'VE BEEN PATIENT LONG ENOUGH! NOW IT'S TIME TO FACE THE WRATH OF JAE SUHI

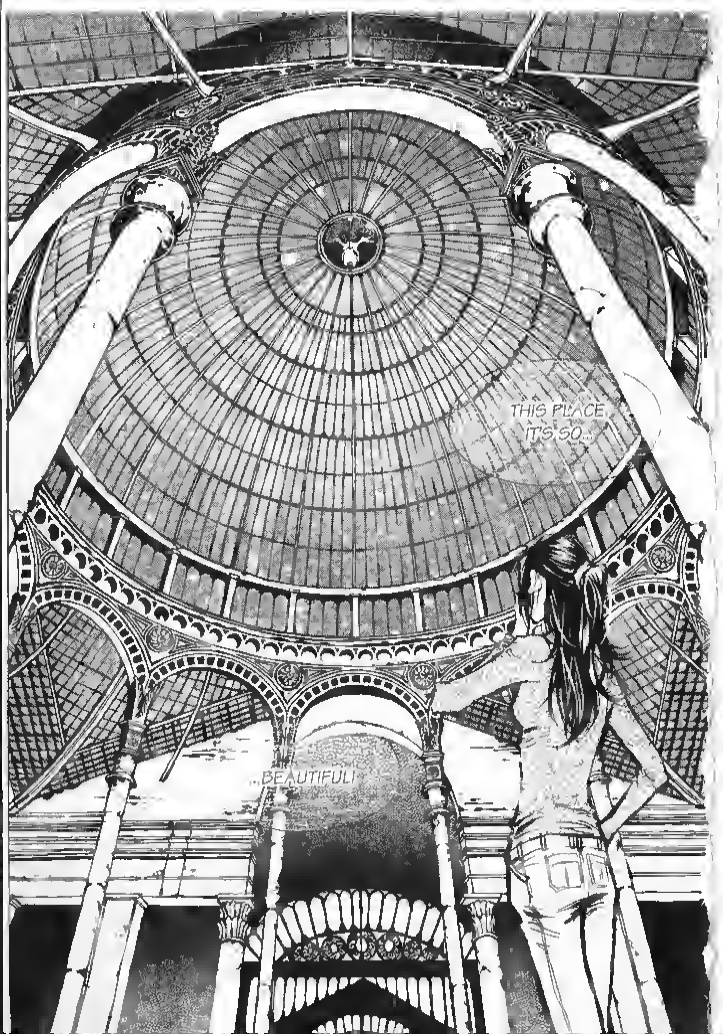

THINK IT THROUGH
BLINK
THAT VOICE
YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO EVA

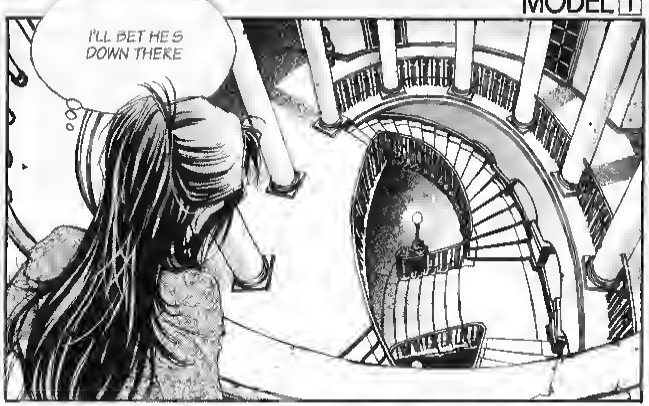
FOR YOUR OWN SANITY

SPIN
FINE.
I'LL SHOW YOU-- IF YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT.
BUT DON'T FORGET.
...HE'S NOT HUMAN.

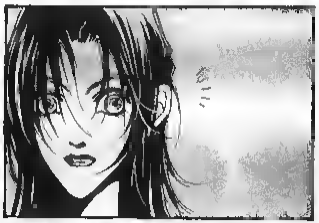
THERE IT IS, JAE. YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN NOW.
GOOD LUCK.

CREAK
EKGH! THIS DOOR IS HUGE! HUMPH. I'LL SHOW HIM I CAN HANDLE IT.


THIS PLACE... IT'S SO...
...BEAUTIFUL!


I'LL BET HE'S DOWN THERE

AFTER ALL, HE DOES NEED TO AVOID SUNLIGHT.

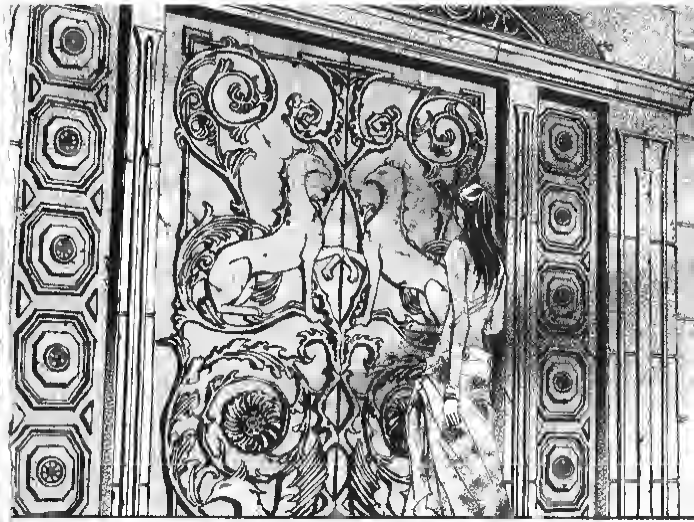


I SMELL INCENSE. AND SOMETHING ELSE...

WHOA! WHAT STRANGE STATUES THIS PLACE IS SO CLUTTERED
AND IT SMELLS FUNKY
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE
-I

A WOMAN'S VOICE?

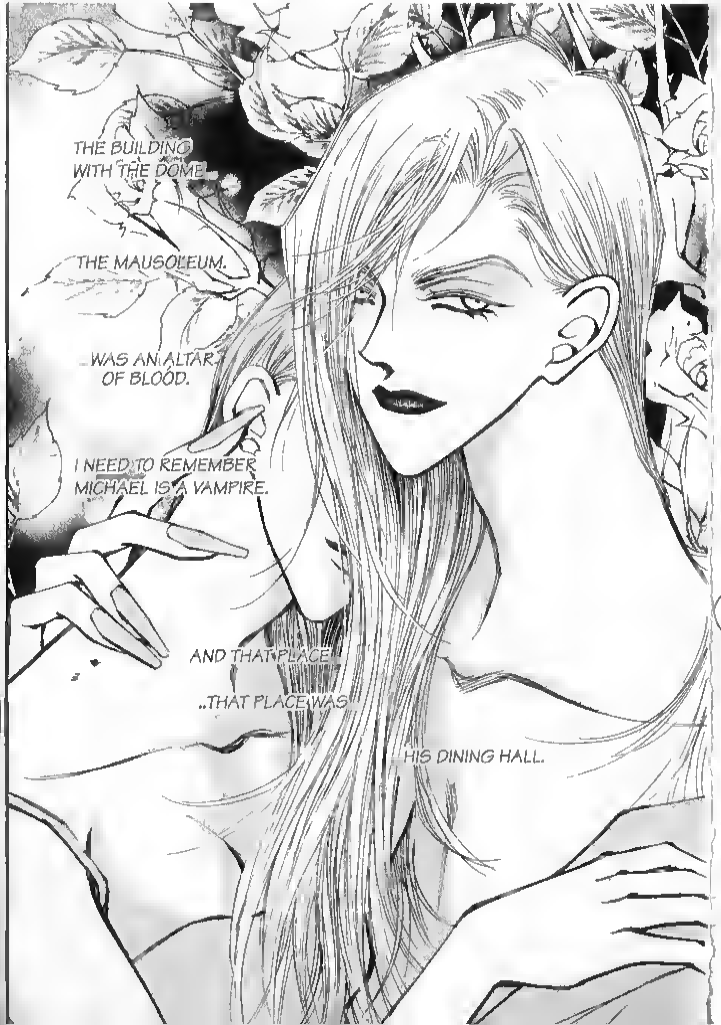


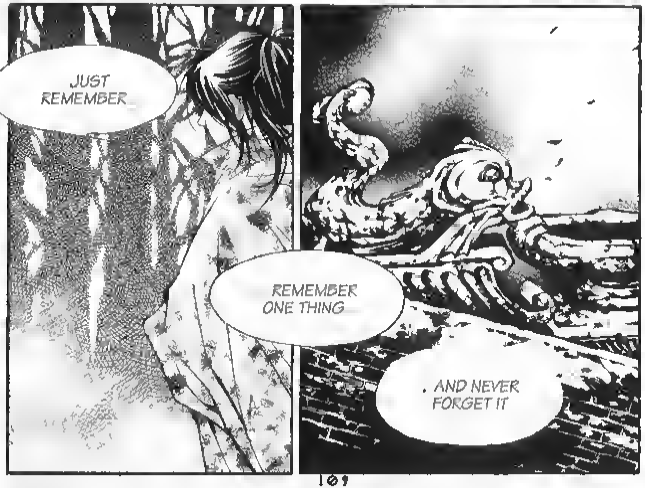


GULP

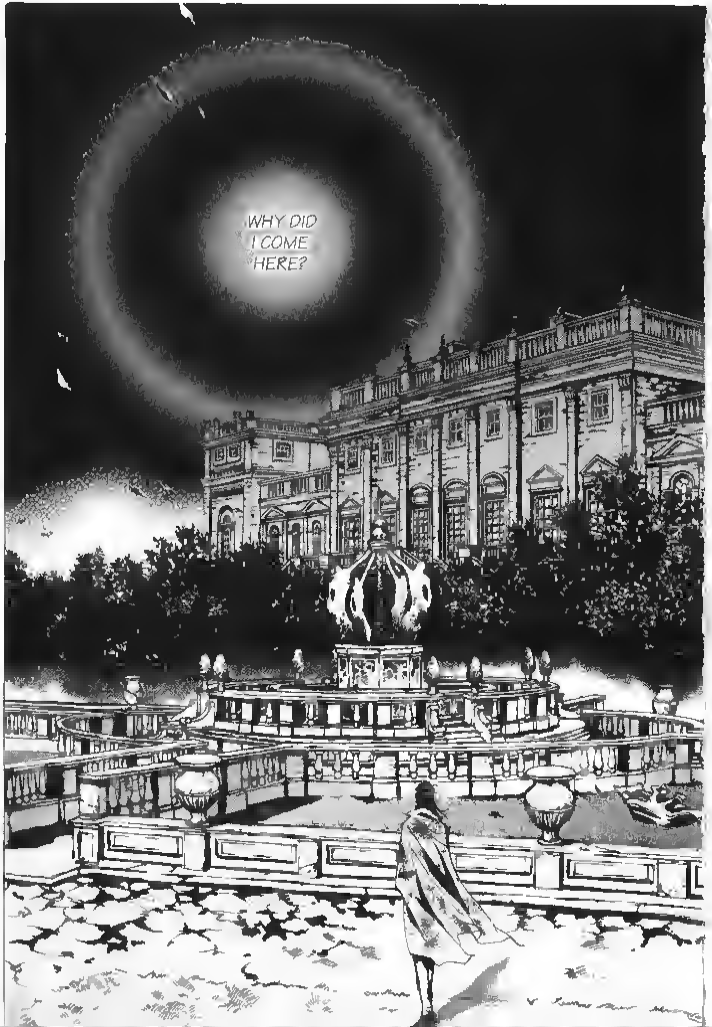
HERE GOES NOTHING
CREAK
THIS DOOR IS HEAVY

CLICK


THE BUILDING WITH THE DOME...
THE MAUSOLEUM.
...WAS AN ALTAR OF BLOOD.
I NEED TO REMEMBER. MICHAEL IS A VAMPIRE.
AND THAT PLACE...
...THAT PLACE WAS...
...HIS DINING HALL.


JUST REMEMBER...
REMEMBER ONE THING...
...AND NEVER FORGET IT

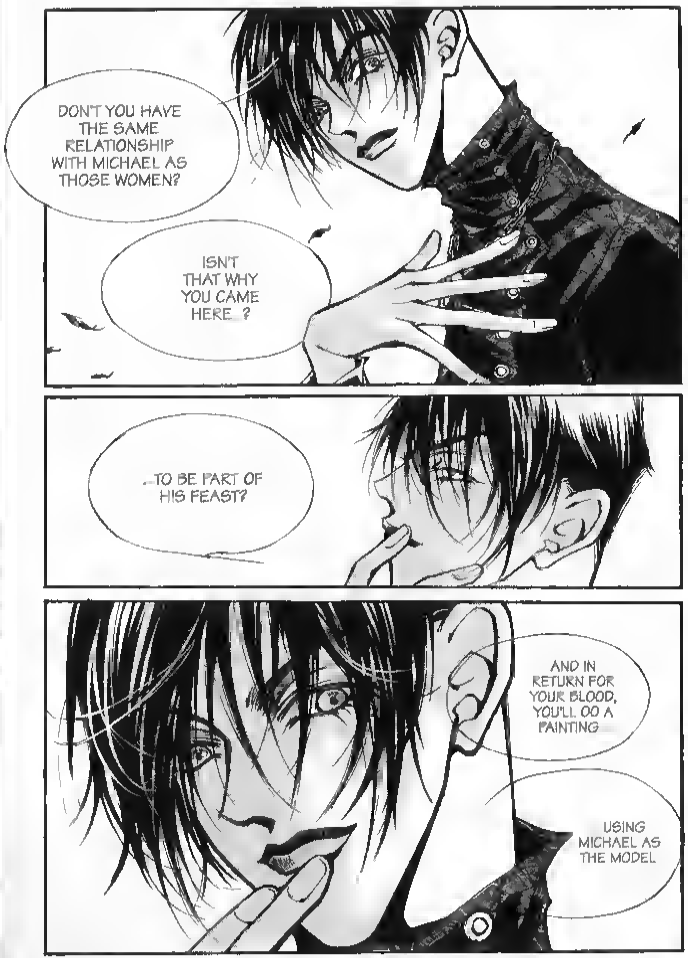
HE ISN'T HUMAN
I CAN STILL REMEMBER THAT FIRST NIGHT...
...I STILL HAVE A SCAR...


WHY DID I COME HERE?

YOU'RE BACK EARLIER THAN I EXPECTED.
DID YOU SEE ANYTHING INTERESTING?
WELL?

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THAT SPUNK YOU HAD EARLIER?
WHERE HAS IT GONE?
YOU MUST HAVE RECEIVED QUITE A SHOCK.

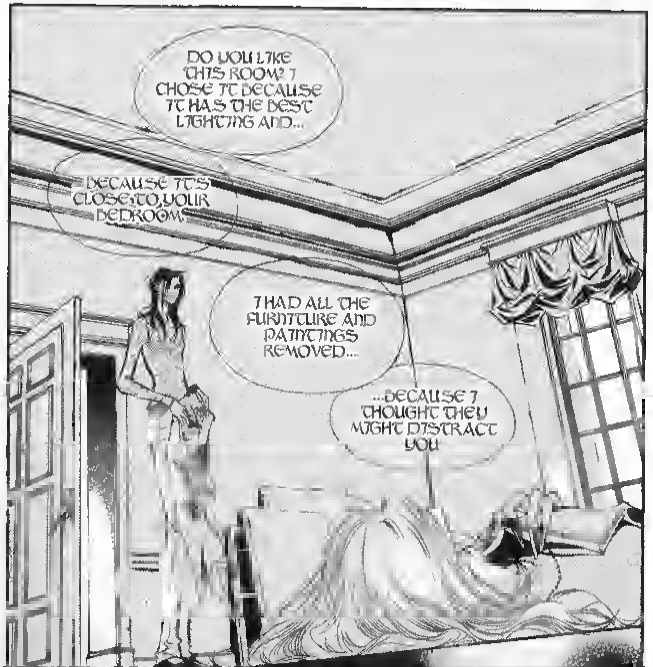
DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.
BUT I'M SURE YOU ALREADY KNEW ABOUT HIS NATURE.


DON'T YOU HAVE THE SAME RELATIONSHIP WITH MICHAEL AS THOSE WOMEN?
ISN'T THAT WHY YOU CAME HERE...?
...TO BE PART OF HIS FEAST?
AND IN RETURN FOR YOUR BLOOD, YOU'LL DO A PAINTING...
USING MICHAEL AS THE MODEL

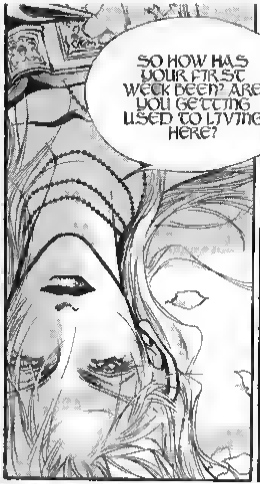
IMPOSSIBLE
CAN I ASK JUST ONE THING?
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU...
A TIGER AND A RABBIT PLAY HOUSE
ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BE ENTERTAINING TO WATCH
...AND MICHAEL THINKING?

WHAT WAS I THINKING?!
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THE BLOOD-THIRSTY VAMPIRE...
CLACK
CLACK
I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO SUCCUMB TO TEMPTATION
THAT'S RIGHT. I ONLY WANT TO DRAW
THERE IS NO OTHER REASON...
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
JUDGING BY YOUR SMELL, YOU'VE BEEN OUTSIDE
...BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY ULTERIOR MOTIVES. I JUST WANT A SIMPLE PAINTING!
I CAME HERE TO DRAW A VAMPIRE

I WAS TIRED OF WAITING SO I THOUGHT I'D READ A BOOK BUT...
...THE MOON IS TOO HAZY TONIGHT.


DO YOU LIKE THIS ROOM? I CHOSE IT BECAUSE IT HAS THE BEST LIGHTING AND...
...BECAUSE IT'S CLOSE TO YOUR BEDROOM.
I HAD ALL THE FURNITURE AND PAINTINGS REMOVED...
...BECAUSE I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT DISTRACT YOU




SO HOW HAS YOUR FIRST WEEK BEEN? ARE YOU GETTING USED TO LIVING HERE?

"USED TO?"

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE CAPABLE OF SUCH THOUGHTFULNESS YOU WERE GONE A WEEK JUST FOR MY WELL-BEING?!

AM I SUPPOSED TO BOW AND GROVEL FOR YOUR KINDNESS?!
HA HA. YOU SOUND LIKE A PETULANT CHILD, POUTING BECAUSE YOU MISSED ME
!
AND THE FACT THAT YOU'VE MISSED ME...
...MAKES ME HAPPY.

IT'S RARE...
TO HAVE SOMEONE MISS YOU SO MUCH THAT SHE BECOMES ANGRY.
I JUST WANT TO MAKE ONE THING PERFECTLY CLEAR.
WE HAVE A CONTRACT.
I CAME HERE TO DRAW YOU. NOTHING ELSE. AND ONCE I'M FINISHED...
...I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU--OR THIS PLACE AGAIN!

THE SOONER WE FINISH, THE BETTER!
!

.....

HA HA--! RUNNING AWAY?! YOU COWARD...

FINE! I'VE BEEN APPROACHING THIS ALL WRONG.
I KNEW IT WASN'T GOING TO BE EASY, BUT I FORGOT HOW DISHONORABLE YOU COULD BE.
YES, THIS IS QUITE FUNNY. BUT JUST YOU WAIT!
WE'LL SEE WHO HAS THE LAST LAUGH!
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
I CAN PLAY GAMES AS WELL.
HA...!

ENJOYING YOURSELF?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A PEEPING TOM.
...OR A PEEPING KEN.

I NEED TO ASK YOU..
DID YOU LEAD HER TO THE MAUSOLEUM?
I THINK YOU DID.
I'M SURE SHE WOULD HAVE EVENTUALLY FOUND IT ON HER OWN EVEN WITHOUT YOUR HELP.
BUT WHAT I'M CURIOUS ABOUT IS..

...YOUR MOTIVE.
I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE ME.
NEVERTHELESS.

NOW...
...I'D PREFER YOU REFRAIN FROM SUCH ACTS IN THE FUTURE.

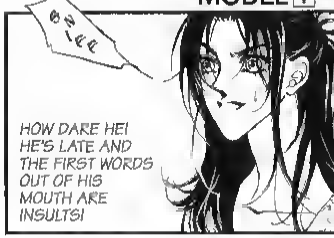
...BE A GOOD BOY...

EVA DRAGGED ME OUT OF BED TO BE HERE, BUT NOW SHE WON'T SAY WHY.
YAWN
I'M NOT A VAMPIRE... I CAN'T STAY UP THIS LATE.

YOU'VE BEEN STANDING THERE FOR MORE THAN 20 MINUTES
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TELL ME?
I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU, MISS JAE.
I WAS SIMPLY ASKED TO WATCH OVER YOU UNTIL HE ARRIVED.
WHY? SO YOU CAN SPY ON ME?!
WHAT IS HE UP TO?
THE LONGER I WAIT, THE ANGRIER I GET!
HE THINKS HE CAN DO JUST AS HE PLEASES.
OF COURSE, I KEEP LETTING HIM. BUT I WON'T TAKE THIS MUCH LONGER. IF HE DOESN'T SHOW UP IN
IS THAT THE ONLY TYPE OF WARDROBE YOU HAVE?





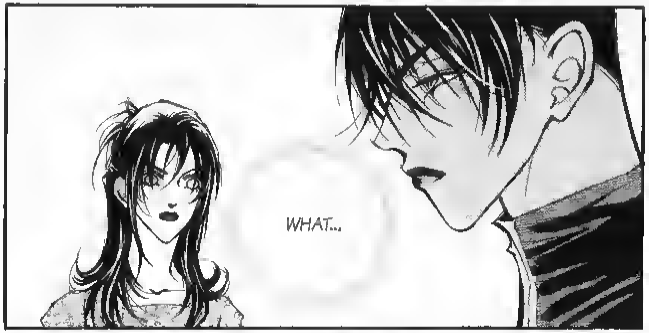

BELLE
HOW DARE HE! HE'S LATE AND THE FIRST WORDS OUT OF HIS MOUTH ARE INSULTS!

EVA, HAVE YOU PREPARED EVERYTHING?

YES, MASTER.
EVERYTHING IS AS YOU REQUESTED.

!
THOSE CLOTHES ARE RACHEL ARROGUDOU'S
OF COURSE. HOW COULD AN IMPOVERISHED STUDENT AFFORD AN EVENING DRESS?

EVA TELLS ME YOU HAVEN'T EATEN TONIGHT.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S LATE, I THOUGHT WE'D DINE TOGETHER.
EVA WILL GIVE YOU SOMETHING APPROPRIATE TO WEAR.
WHAT?! WAIT A MINUTE!
KEN.
?
ONCE THE YOUNG LADY IS READY, PLEASE ESCORT HER TO THE PLACE.
THUD
YES.
...MASTER.


WHAT...

...IS GOING ON NOW?

DO I REALLY HAVE TO WEAR THIS?
I'M NOT USED TO DRESSING LIKE THIS
I FEEL LIKE I'M DRESSED TO ATTEND SOME GRAND BALL.

I'VE NEVER EVEN WORN HEELS THIS HIGH BEFORE

THIS IS SO HUMILIATING. HOW LONG MUST I ENDURE THIS?
I PLAYED ALONG SO I COULD FIND OUT WHAT HE'S UP TO, BUT THIS..
THIS IS TOO MUCH!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HUH?
THE COLOR OF THE DRESS MATCHES YOUR HAIR.
AND IT IS THE MASTER'S FAVORITE COLOR
HOW FORTUNATE.
THAT HE DOESN'T LIKE THE COLOR RED

IF I WERE TO WEAR RED...
...IT WOULD BE LIKE SIGNING MY OWN DEATH CERTIFICATE...
KEN, PLEASE ESCORT MISS JAE.

FINE
RIGHT THIS WAY.

NO!
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND

I WON'T GO!
NOT LIKE THIS!
YES, MUCH BETTER. I'M MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE IN MY CLOTHES
HOW COULD I EVEN EAT IN THAT TIGHT OUTFIT?
I'M HAVING TROUBLE WITH THIS FOOD AS IT IS.
I ENJOYED THE MAKEOVER, BUT I DON'T LIKE PRETENDING TO BE SOMEONE I'M NOT.
BESIDES, IF HE WANTS ME TO EAT DINNER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, I'LL COME AS I LIKE

THERE!
OKAY, LET'S GO! WE DON'T WANT TO KEEP MR. VAMPIRE WAITING ANY LONGER, DO WE?
FOR A MOMENT, HE ALMOST HAD ME
BUT IF HE
UP RULES! SO CAN
I WON'T BOW TO HIM!
GOT THAT, MR. VAMPIRE?!

YOU'RE AWFULLY QUIET TONIGHT.
VAMPIRE BAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?
YOU DON'T STRIKE ME AS SOMEONE WHO'S EVER AT A LOSS FOR WORDS
WHY IS HE BEING SO GUARDED? SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT TONIGHT'S "DINNER"?
SO...
HERE WE ARE

PLEASE GO RIGHT IN.
OKAY! BUT I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK
WILL YOU ESCORT ME BACK TO MY ROOM WHEN DINNER IS OVER?

SQUEE
BUT WHAT IS HE SCHEMING?
HA! I KNEW IT. I SHOULD NEVER BELIEVE ANYTHING HE SAYS
ONE THING IS CERTAIN, YOU CANNOT TRUST THE WORD OF A VAMPIRE
WHY ARE WE HAVING DINNER IN A JUNGLE?
BLUSH
AS YOU WISH.
CREAK
ANOTHER DOOR EACH TIME I STAND BEFORE A DOOR IN THIS PLACE, I FEEL ANXIOUS
LET'S SEE WHAT AWAITS..

OH--I THOSE WOMEN!
HERE?
HELLO.
WELCOME.
DON'T JUST STAND THERE! COME AND SIT WITH US
I SEE YOU RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM MICHAEL AS WELL
DON'T BE SHY. COME HERE
AS THEY SAY, THE MORE THE MERRIER
WE FINALLY HAVE THE PLEASURE OF MEETING YOU OUR NEW FRIEND.
WE WERE WITH MICHAEL EARLIER, BUT HE SUDDENLY LEFT US. TOO BAD HE HAD TO GO SO ABRUPTLY
..ESPECIALLY SINCE THIS IS OUR LAST PARTY.

YOU DO KNOW ABOUT HIM, DON'T YOU?
THAT HE ISN'T HUMAN
AND
—THAT HE ENJOYS THE TASTE OF BLOOD ESPECIALLY OUR BLOOD
?!
DO THESE WOMEN REALIZE WHAT THEY ARE SAYING!?
"LAST PARTY"?!
?!

SO THAT'S IT?
OUR LAST DINNER AND WE'RE THE MAIN COURSE
TO HIM, THIS WAS ALL A GREAT JOKE.
FROM THE BEGINNING, I WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A WARM MEAL!
WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT?
DIDN'T EVA GIVE YOU SOMETHING?
MICHAEL!!

WOOSH
I'M AN IDIOT FOR EVER TRUSTING A VAMPIRE!
LET'S STOP JOKING AROUND. MY SIDES CAN'T HANDLE THE LAUGHTER.
I'M TIRED OF YOUR GAMES.
YOU STARTED THIS WHOLE STUPID "CONTRACT" FOR A PORTRAIT
AND I'VE ALREADY PAID MY PRICE!
YOU OWE ME!
MY "FINAL PARTY"?
IF I COULD HAVE AT LEAST LET ME FINISH THE PORTRAIT SO I COULD LEAVE BEHIND SOME KIND OF ARTISTIC LEGACY.

ARE YOU AFRAID OF DEATH? YOU KNEW I WAS A VAMPIRE...
...YET, YOU WILLINGLY ENTERED THE LION'S DEN.
...YOU'RE MORE FRIGHTENED THAN I IMAGINED.
!
THAT TELLS ME YOU WERE WILLING TO TAKE YOUR CHANCES!
BUT THIS WAS MERELY A DEMONSTRATION. ONE TO LET YOU KNOW WHO IS IN COMMAND... ME!
I MAY "OWE" YOU...
BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, I CAN BREAK THE CONTRACT AT ANY TIME.
ILL

AS EASILY AS I CAN BREAK YOUR NECK!
YOU DARE TO SLAP ME?
ONLY A SAVAGE WOULD ATTEMPT TO MAR THIS BEAUTIFUL FACE.
IF YOU WISH TO HAVE ME MODEL FOR YOU, YOU WILL NOT REPEAT THIS BEHAVIOR, EVER AGAIN.
REMEMBER, YOUR NEXT MISTAKE COULD BE YOUR LAST!
REALLY?
HA!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
AND DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH ME LIKE THAT AGAIN!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KEEPS PLAYING GAMES! HOW "CIVILIZED" ARE YOU WHEN YOU DON'T ADHERE TO YOUR OWN RULES?

SZZ
I'LL FINISH IT!
I'LL DRAW YOUR ARROGANT FIGURE ON MY CANVAS
TO YOU, MY BLOOD IS NOTHING MORE THAN A MIDNIGHT SNACK. BUT FOR ME, IT'S MY LIFE
I DON'T JOKE AROUND WHEN MY LIFE IS ON THE LINE. I MADE AN AGREEMENT AND I'LL HONOR IT

YOU MAY HAVE STARTED THIS
. BUT I'LL END IT!
I'M GOING TO CAPTURE YOUR TRUE ESSENCE!
I'LL OBSERVE YOU IN YOUR NATURAL SETTING
YOU WON'T FOOL ME ANYMORE
I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT A VAMPIRE IS REALLY LIKE

ONLY THEN WILL I START YOUR PORTRAIT!
YOU WON'T ESCAPE!
I'D WATCH YOUR EVERY BREATH-- IF YOU HAD ANY!

THUMP
WAIT...
AHH!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
AM I GOING CRAZY!?

HA HA!
HA HA HA!
YOU'RE PERVERSE!
I MUST SAY, SHE IS AMUSING!
DON'T YOU FIND HER FUNNY, GIRLS?

I'M CERTAINLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING...
IT'S TOO BAD SHE RAN AWAY SO SOON. SHE MUST BE TIRED.
I'M SURE ALL THAT SCREAMING WAS EXHAUSTING.
...MY DEPICTION THROUGH HER EYES.
BUT SHE COULD HAVE AT LEAST STAYED FOR DINNER. HA HA!

KEN?
SAY SOMETHING
SAY ANYTHING!
DID YOUR MASTER TELL YOU TO BE SILENT?!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SMUG SMILES AND SUPERIOR LOOKS?
YOU'RE ALL THE SAME! EVERYONE HERE IS INSANE!
IF YOU'RE DONE, I'LL ESCORT YOU BACK TO YOUR ROOM.

FINE LEAD THE WAY.
SINCE I WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED YOU, KEN.

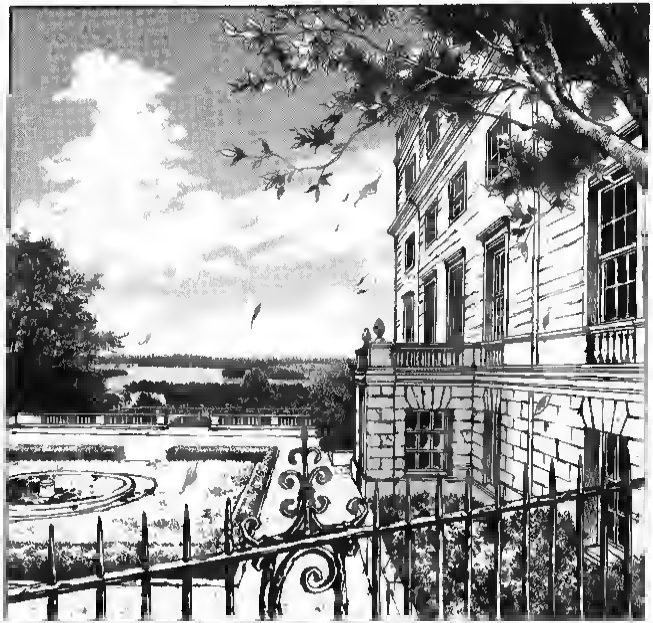
WHY DOES THAT SCENE KEEP HAUNTING ME?
I'M GONNA GO CRAZY IF I CAN'T GET SOME SLEEP BUT I'M AFRAID I'LL DREAM ABOUT IT
CREAK
IT'S NEARLY DAWN
THE END OF A VERY INTENSE NIGHT...
파닥
파닥
파닥
!

KEN?!
GO.
GO TO MICHAEL!

DISTURB
HIS SLEEP!
끄-으-으
끄-으-으
끼-익
!
파닥
파닥
파닥

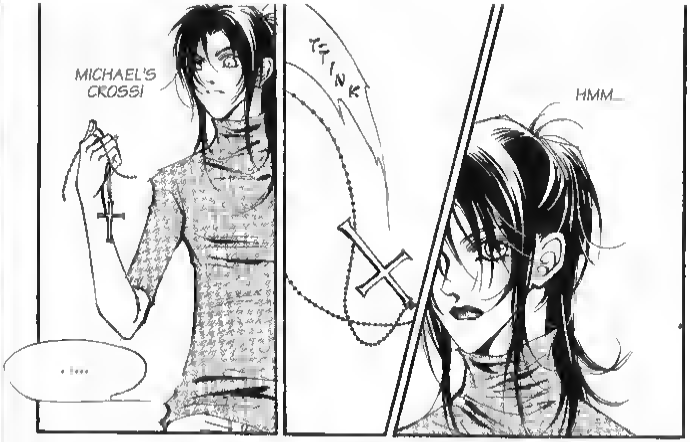
끼-익
끼-익

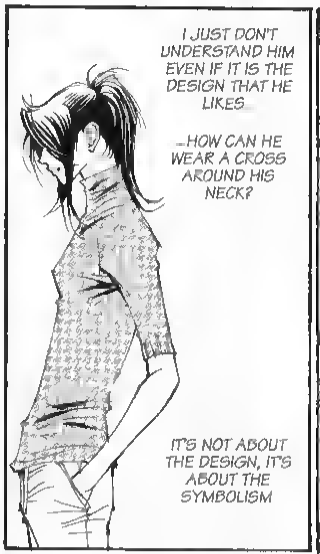
KEN!!

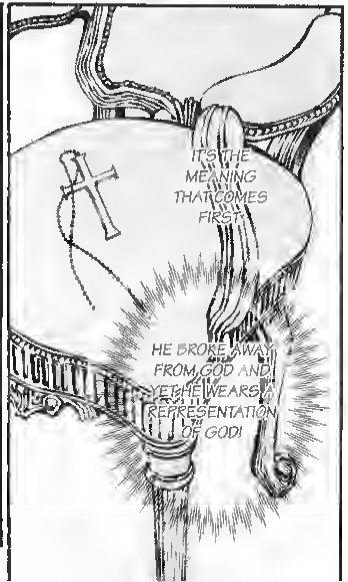


FINALLY.
DAWN AT LAST!
EVERYTHING FEELS NORMAL AGAIN.
I'VE NEVER FELT THE SUN LIKE THIS BEFORE-- WITH EVERY PORE OF MY BEING.
IT'S SO WARM...
I'M SO TIRED, BUT IT WOULD BE A WASTE TO SLEEP DURING THE DAY WHEN I'M FREE OF MICHAEL!

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW HE REACTED AFTER MY HAND TOUCHED HIM.
IT ONLY HURT BECAUSE MY HAND ABSORBS THE WARMTH OF THE SUN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT A NARCISSIST HE IS!
HMM, WHAT'S THIS?


MICHAEL'S CROSS!
...!...
TINK
HMM...


I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM EVEN IF IT IS THE DESIGN THAT HE LIKES...
...HOW CAN HE WEAR A CROSS AROUND HIS NECK?
IT'S NOT ABOUT THE DESIGN, IT'S ABOUT THE SYMBOLISM


IT'S THE MEANING THAT COMES FIRST!
HE BROKE AWAY FROM GOD AND YET HE WEARS A REPRESENTATION OF GOD!

OH, LET IT GO
I DON'T NEED TO MAKE THIS MORE COMPLICATED THAN IT ALREADY IS

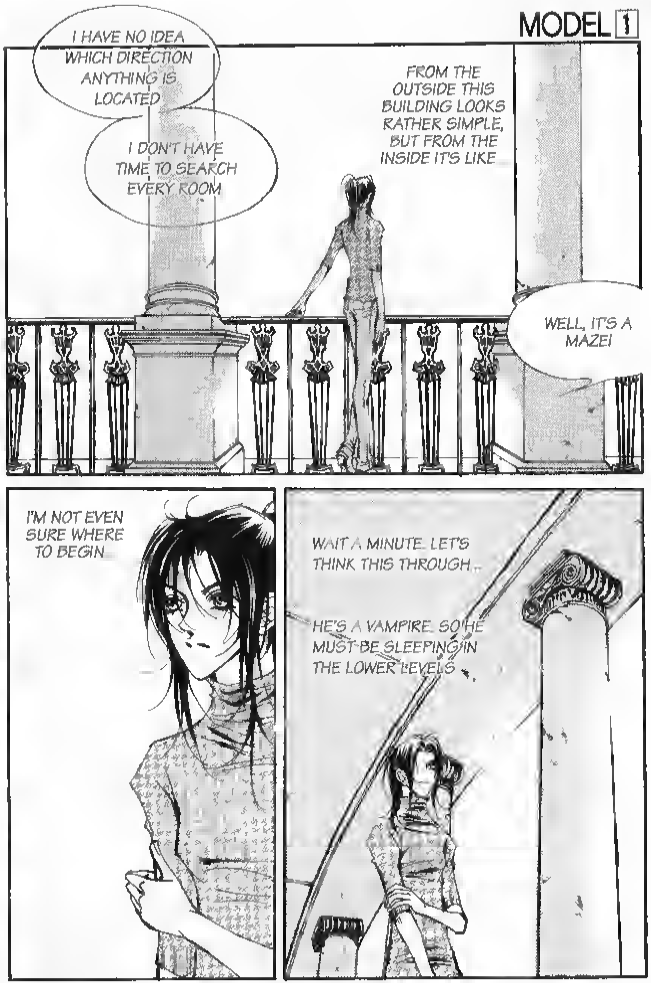
LET'S THINK ABOUT THE BASICS
HUMANS NEED THREE BASIC ESSENTIALS--SLEEP, FOOD AND SHELTER.
WELL, HOW ARE VAMPIRES ANY DIFFERENT?
I KNOW WHAT HE EATS
...I KNOW WHEN HE SLEEPS...

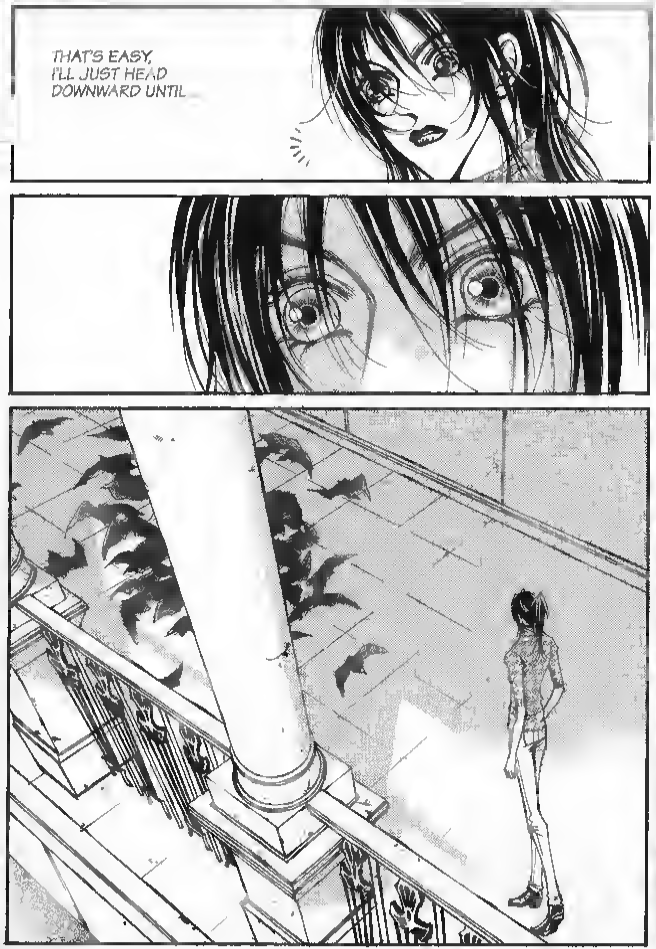
SO I'LL SPEND TODAY LEARNING ABOUT HIS SHELTER!

I DEFINITELY CAN'T LET EVA KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!
I'M STARTING TO LIKE THIS BUILDING.
SINCE I'VE ALREADY ENTERED THE LION'S DEN...
I MIGHT AS WELL GO STRAIGHT TO THE HEART.
BUT THE BIG QUESTION REMAINS--
WHERE IS HIS COFFIN?

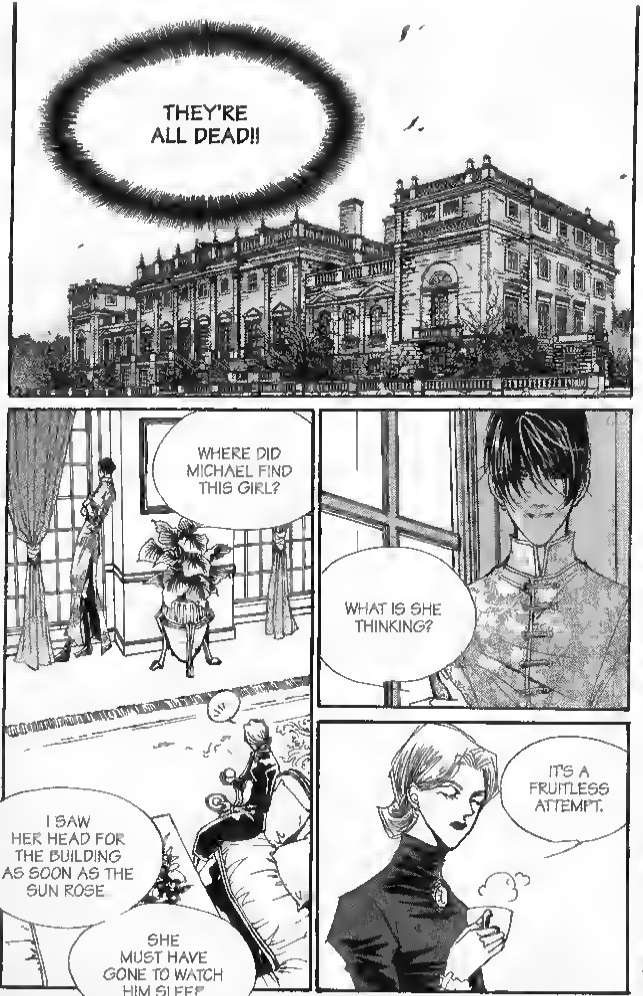





I HAVE NO IDEA WHICH DIRECTION ANYTHING IS LOCATED.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SEARCH EVERY ROOM.
FROM THE OUTSIDE THIS BUILDING LOOKS RATHER SIMPLE, BUT FROM THE INSIDE IT'S LIKE...
WELL, IT'S A MAZE!
I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHERE TO BEGIN.
WAIT A MINUTE. LET'S THINK THIS THROUGH...
HE'S A VAMPIRE. SO HE MUST BE SLEEPING IN THE LOWER LEVELS.


THAT'S EASY.
I'LL JUST HEAD
DOWNWARD UNTIL...

B-BATS!!
AHHH!


THEY'RE ALL DEAD!!
WHERE DID MICHAEL FIND THIS GIRL?
WHAT IS SHE THINKING?
I SAW HER HEAD FOR THE BUILDING AS SOON AS THE SUN ROSE
SHE MUST HAVE GONE TO WATCH HIM SLEEP
IT'S A FRUITLESS ATTEMPT.

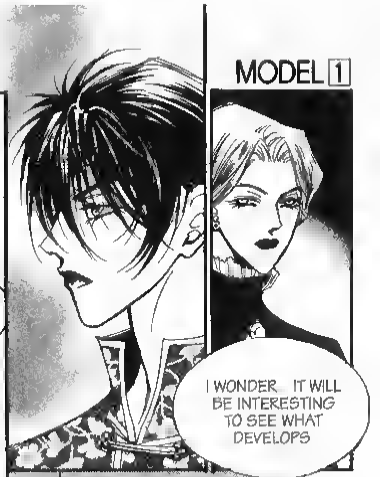
I KNOW SHE PROBABLY KNOWS IT TOO
BUT SHE DOESN'T SEEM THE TYPE TO SIT AROUND AND DO NOTHING
SHE'S VERY UNUSUAL WHY ELSE WOULD SHE COME HERE OF HER OWN ACCORD?
WHY
DOES SHE
WANT TO DRAW MICHAEL?

DOES SHE FIND MICHAEL SO ATTRACTIVE SHE'S WILLING TO PLACE HER LIFE IN DANGER?
OR HAS SHE FALLEN VICTIM TO HIS SPELL?

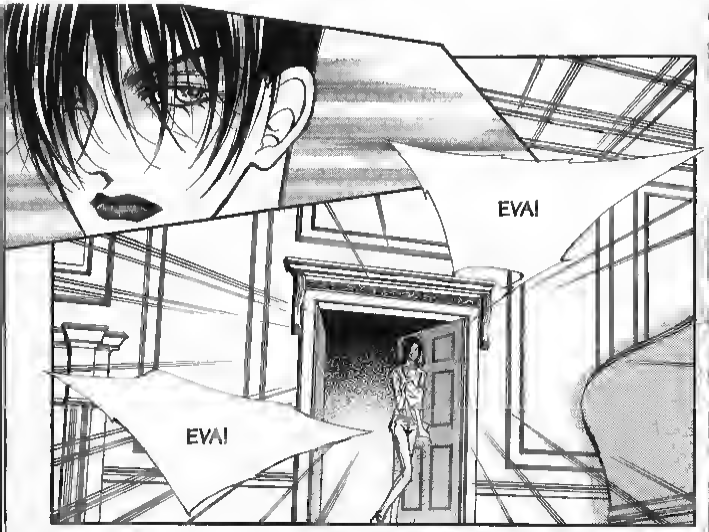
AND WHAT ABOUT MICHAEL?
IT'S NOT LIKE HIM TO ENTRUST HIS PORTRAIT TO A STRANGER...
IN FACT, MICHAEL IS PRETTY CAREFUL NOT TO LEAVE ANY IMAGES OF HIMSELF ANYWHERE...

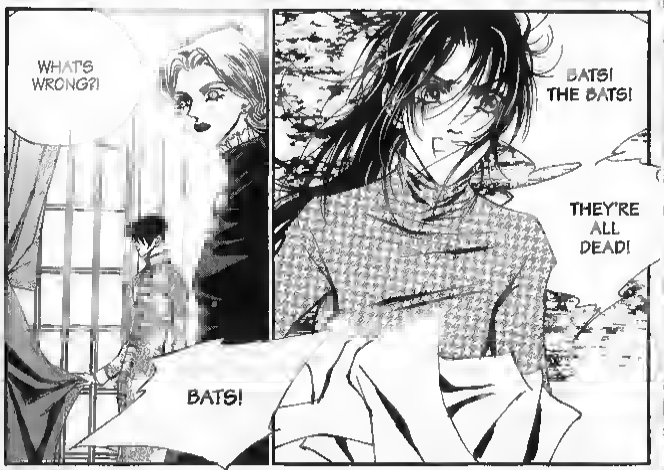
I KNOW THERE'S THE PORTRAIT HE DID OF HIMSELF WHEN HE WAS HUMAN
...BUT NO ONE HAS SEEN THAT IN YEARS!
MICHAEL MUST BE MOVED BY SOMETHING ABOUT HER

THEY'RE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER. SHE'S IMPATIENT AND SPONTANEOUS
AND HE'S EXTREMELY CALCULATING
IF MICHAEL IS AN ELEGANT VASE, SHE'S AN UNMANAGEABLE AND THORNY FLOWER, AND YET...
...I GET THE FEELING THAT THEY ARE VERY MUCH ALIKE


I WONDER... IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT DEVELOPS

I FIND HER TO BE QUITE AMUSING
I DON'T MIND HER BEING HERE AT ALL...
EVA!


EVA!
EVA!


WHAT'S WRONG?!
BATS!
BATS! THE BATS!
THEY'RE ALL DEAD!

THIS IS THE ONLY ONE STILL BREATHING!
PLEASE, DO SOMETHING!!
HIS WING IS TORN, BUT OTHERWISE HE'S FINE
SINCE HIS BONES ARE STILL INTACT, HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FLY IN A FEW DAYS.

WAS IT MICHAEL?

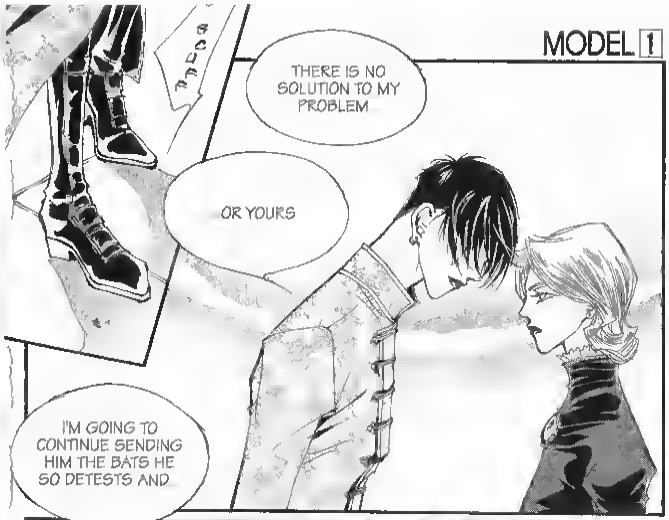
OR WAS IT KEN?
LAST NIGHT, I SAW THOSE BATS WITH KEN
BUT KEN WOULDN'T HURT THE BATS, WOULD HE?
SO MAYBE IT WAS MICHAEL, THEN

BUT BATS WOULDN'T ATTACK A VAMPIRE EITHER.
AREN'T BATS AND VAMPIRES ALLIES?
ISN'T THAT WHY THERE ARE SO MANY BATS HERE?
OR DOES MICHAEL CRAVE THE BLOOD OF BATS, AS WELL?
THE MASTER DETESTS BATS.

HE FINDS THEM VILE AND...
WHAT?
HOLD ON! WAIT JUST A MINUTE!
DO YOU MEAN... BECAUSE MICHAEL DETESTS BATS--
--HE KILLED THEM?!
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME?
WHILE IT'S TRUE THE MASTER DETESTS BATS...
...HE ONLY KILLED THEM IN SELF DEFENSE THEY WERE ATTACKING HIM
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TALK TO KEN...
KEN?!
THERE IS MUCH YOU NEED TO REALIZE, MISS JAE.
EVEN THOUGH LEGENDS DESCRIBE BATS AND VAMPIRES AS COHORTS...
...IT'S SIMPLY NOT TRUE
JUST LIKE THE MISUNDERSTANDING YOU HAD REGARDING THE CROSS
THE VAMPIRE OF LEGEND IS JUST THAT--LEGEND
BUT IN REALITY, LIVING THINGS UNDERGO EVOLUTION
THAT HOLDS TRUE FOR ALL THINGS
AS YOU NOW KNOW, MISS JAE, VAMPIRES AREN'T MYTHS FOUND ONLY IN MOVIES AND BOOKS
JUST LIKE US VAMPIRES ARE LIVING THINGS THAT EVOLVE

EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE AN ABOMINATION TO LIFE...
...THEY STILL GO THROUGH CHANGES

YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN, KEN.
DON'T YOU REALIZE YOUR ACTIONS WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING?
HA! "SOLVE"?


PACE
THERE IS NO SOLUTION TO MY PROBLEM
OR YOURS
I'M GOING TO CONTINUE SENDING HIM THE BATS HE SO DETESTS AND...

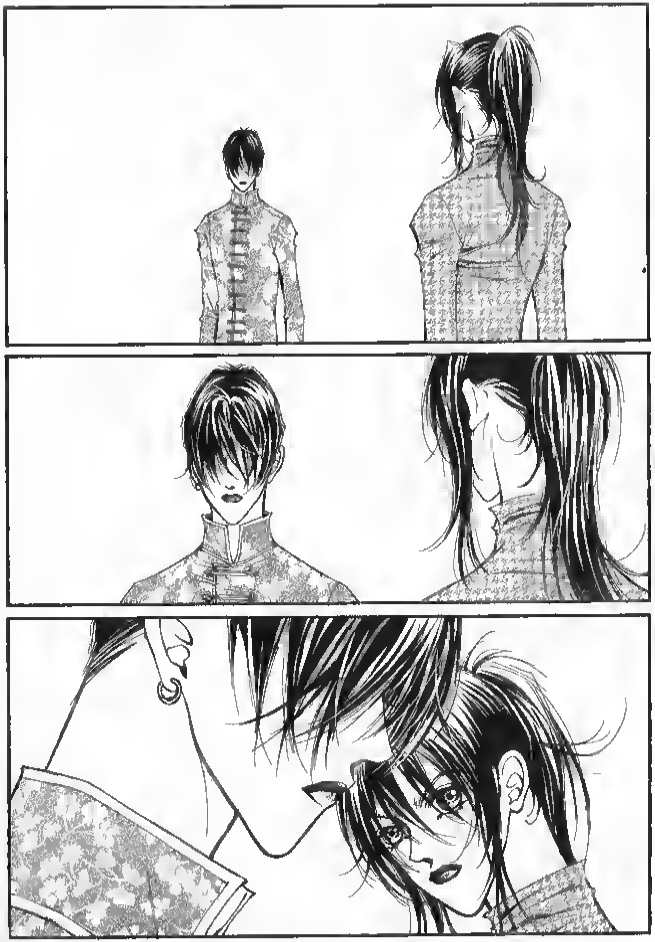
YOU AND I WILL GO ON AS HIS MINDLESS SERVANTS UNTIL HE GROWS TIRED OF US
BATS REPRODUCE VERY QUICKLY--LIKE RABBITS!

EVEN AS A VAMPIRE, THERE IS NO WAY THAT HE COULD KILL THEM ALL

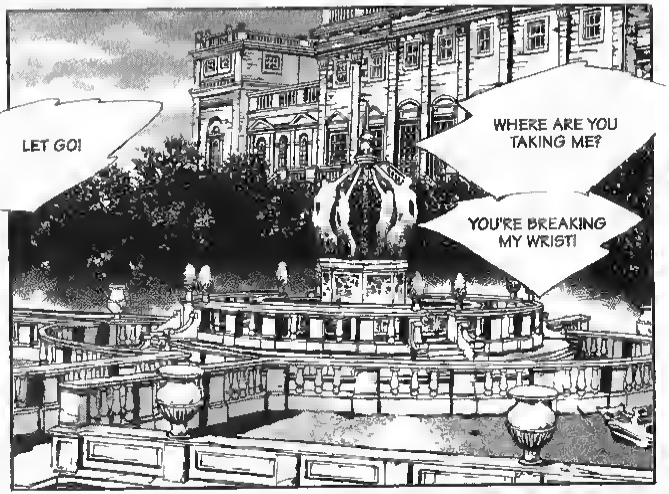
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CRUEL?
YOU SACRIFICE INNOCENT ANIMALS JUST TO RELEASE YOUR FRUSTRATION
VAMPIRES LOSE CONTROL OVER THEIR EMOTIONS BECAUSE OF BLOODLUST
BUT YOUR LACK OF CONTROL IS JUST AS DANGEROUS
CRUEL?
YOU DARE CALL ME CRUEL?

THIS ALL BEGAN BECAUSE OF YOU
...EVA.
KEN!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
WHERE IS HE HIDING? HE HAS TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE.

...HE ONLY KILLED THEM IN SELF-DEFENSE. THEY WERE ATTACKING HIM...
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TALK TO KEN.
HOW NAUSEATING!!
GO TO MICHAEL!
THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON HERE
ESPECIALLY BETWEEN THOSE TWO. IT'S MORE THAN A MASTER-SERVANT RELATIONSHIP!
SOMETHING THAT EXPLAINS WHY KEN IS SO DIFFERENT WHEN MICHAEL IS AROUND
HE ABHORS MICHAEL
OF COURSE! BUT DOES HE HATE HIM ENOUGH TO SACRIFICE THE BATS THAT TRUST HIM...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
EVEN IF KEN HATES MICHAEL ENOUGH TO WANT TO KILL HIM...
...WHY WOULD HE MAKE SUCH A FUTILE EFFORT BY USING HIS BATS?
NOTHING MAKES SENSE HERE!
IS KEN A COWARD?
OR JUST A PETULANT CHILD?



HUH?


LET GO!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
YOU'RE BREAKING MY WRIST!

OW, THAT REALLY HURT
WHY DID KEN DRAG ME HERE?
HE'S SURE KEEPING QUIET, WHATEVER IT IS!

THE DAYS HERE ARE VERY SHORT

THERE ONCE WAS A TIME WHEN I DREAMED OF ESCAPE
...I FAILED
I'VE SINCE GIVEN UP ON THAT, OR ANY OTHER DREAM I'VE EVER HAD
I CANNOT ESCAPE THESE SHACKLES
ONCE I REALIZED THAT, I WAS BOUND...

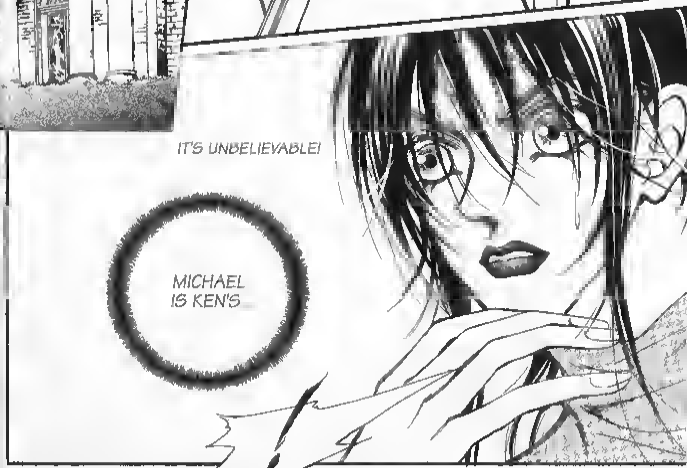
...ALL DESIRE DISAPPEARED
THAT IS THE ONLY LESSON I'VE LEARNED IN THIS PLACE. THE ONLY THING IT HAS GIVEN ME

AHH! THE WIND!
WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME...?

IF I TOLD YOU THAT
..MICHAEL..
..IS MY FATHER..?

NO!

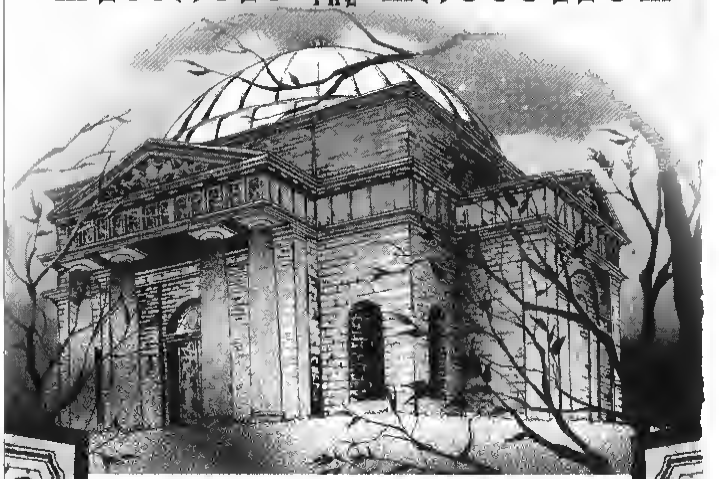
KEN IS LYING. HE'S TOYING WITH ME.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
MICHAEL'S A VAMPIRE. HE WAS HUMAN ONCE, BUT NOW HE IS DEAD...


IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
MICHAEL IS KEN'S...

END OF CHAPTER ONE
ALTAR OF BLOOD

END OF MODEL
VOLUME 1

# MESSAGES FROM THE MAUSOLEUM



JAE'S NEW LIFE AT MICHAEL'S ESTATE MOVES FROM THE REALM OF THE BIZARRE INTO THE UTTERLY FANTASTIC! AS JAE TRIES TO UNCOVER THE SECRETS OF HER BENEFACTOR'S PAST, IT SEEMS THAT WITH EACH ANSWER COME EVEN MORE MYSTERIOUS QUESTIONS. HOW CAN MICHAEL AFFORD SUCH AN EXTRAVAGANT LIFE STYLE? WHY DOES HE PAINT ONLY THE DEAD AND THE DYING? AND JUST WHO IS THE NEWEST GUEST TO ARRIVE AT THIS MANOR OF THE MACABRE?

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But was it really all just a dream? Could this handsome creature truly be a blood-thirsty vampire? And if Jae actually considers his ominous proposition, will she be entering into a deal with the devil?

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